

## ***AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS***

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

### ***Claims:***

1. (Amended) An apparatus for sending a message to a wireless device over a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

    a gateway for receiving the message transmitted over an external network in communication with the gateway, the message including a deletion instruction to delete the message if the message is not delivered to the wireless device, for attempting to deliver the message to the wireless device over the wireless network, and for carrying out the deletion instruction by deleting the message.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway transmits the message over the external network when the deletion instruction is carried out.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway comprises a database for storing the message.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the database has a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the message.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message is a text message.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the deletion instruction is included in the text message.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the deletion instruction is in a header of the message.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the external network is the Internet.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless device is a pager.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway attempts to deliver the message to the wireless device over the wireless network at a predetermined time.

11. (Original) An apparatus for sending a message to a wireless device over a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

a gateway for receiving the message transmitted over an external network in communication with the gateway, the message including a deletion instruction to delete the message if the message is not delivered to the wireless device, for determining whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message, and for carrying out the deletion instruction by deleting the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

12. (Original) An apparatus for sending a message to a wireless device over a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

a gateway for receiving the message transmitted over an external network in communication with the gateway, the message including a deletion instruction to delete the message if the message is not delivered to the wireless device, for attempting to deliver the message to the wireless device over the wireless network, and for carrying out the deletion instruction by deleting the message and returning the message over the external network.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a message to a user of a wireless device over a wireless network, the method comprising:

sending receiving the message including a deletion instruction to delete the message if the message is not delivered to the wireless device;  
attempting to deliver the message to the wireless device over the wireless network; and  
deleting the message.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
returning the message to a source external to the wireless network.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the message is sent over the Internet through a connection to the wireless network.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the message is a text message, and the deletion instruction is included in the message.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the deletion instruction is in a header of the message.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the message is attempted to be delivered to the wireless device over the wireless network at a predetermined time.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a message to a user of a wireless device over a wireless network, the method comprising:

sending receiving the message including a deletion instruction to delete the message if the message is not delivered to the wireless device, wherein the deletion instruction is provided by a sender of the message;

determining whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message immediately; and

deleting the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message immediately.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the message is deleted if the wireless device is not presently capable of receiving the message.